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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: E. Marlowe Goble
Serial No.: 10/090,293
Filing Date: 03/04/2002
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SPINE JOINT
REPLACEMENT
Group Art Unit: 3732
Examiner: Pedro Philogene
Attorney's Docket No.: MED-3

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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APR 21 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

Sir:

PETITION FOR AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND

Applicants hereby petition for a three (3) month extension of time to respond to the outstanding Official Action mailed October 14, 2003, with respect to the above-identified patent application, thereby extending the time for response from January 14, 2004 to April 14, 2004.

A check in the amount of \$475.00 is enclosed to cover the cost of the petition fee. This petition fee has been calculated on the basis of a Small Entity status.

04/19/2004 DEHMANU1 00000150 10090293

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475.00 OP

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In the event that any additional fees may be required to be paid in connection with this matter, please charge the same, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0221. A duplicate copy of this Petition is enclosed for the convenience of the Office.

Thank you.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL, POSTAGE PREPAID, IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO:
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, ON:

April 14, 2004

(DATE OF DEPOSIT)

Scott R. Foster

(NAME OF ATTORNEY)

(SIGNATURE)

April 14, 2004

(DATE OF SIGNATURE)

Respectfully submitted,



Scott R. Foster

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